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BROWN ADVISORY

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INVERNESS COUNSEL, INC.

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Robert B. Deans III
Executive Vice President
(212) 207-2130
r3@invernesscounsel.com





October, 2008

Dear Sponsors, Patrons, Professionals and Guests:

The 2008 Maryland Club Open Tournament Committee is pleased to welcome all the Sponsors, Patrons, ISDA professionals, Members and Guests to the Sixth Annual Maryland Club Open. The Clubs' members have undertaken <u>ALL</u> aspects of hosting such a high level tournament – including fundraising, scheduling, social events and marketing. This year, the Tournament partnered with a new 501(c)(3) Urban Squash program, Baltimore SquashWise, which provided further incentive for the membership to support the Tournament. As a result of the patron support, the Tournament will provide Baltimore SquashWise with a \$2,500 donation.

Obviously, a tournament of this magnitude could not have been possible without the involvement and financial support of the Maryland Club and its members. Specifically, we offer our sincere thanks to Brown Advisory, Inverness Counsel, Platt Development Group, Knott Mechanical, MidLantic Ltd., the Maryland Club, Price Modern, Mid-town Baltimore, LLC - Ritz Carlton, and The Whit Harvey Group - the Tournament's Gold sponsors. Additionally, there are several other individuals and businesses linked to our membership that have been financially supportive and are listed in the Tournament program.

We would not have considered hosting this tournament again if the Tournament Committee, Board of Governors and Club Management did not believe the Maryland Club had the facilities and extraordinary staff necessary to flawlessly run such an event. This weekend, we are certain that you will experience the dedication of all of the Maryland Club staff as no details will be overlooked. We would like to thank Katherine Mandaro, the Club's General Manager, for her support of the squash program, as well as the Club's President, Richard Thomas and the Board of Governors for their efforts in ensuring that the Maryland Club's services and facilities are always exceptional.

Lastly, the Committee would like to thank Andrew Cordova for his ever present passion for the game of squash, this tournament and attention to detail in preparing for this year's Tournament and his efforts during the tournament in scheduling, playing and being an ambassador for Maryland Club squash.

Welcome to the 2008 Maryland Club Open!

Sincerely,

Douglas M. Hoffberger Tournament Chairman



September 28, 2008

Dear Sponsors, Patrons, Professionals and Guests:

Platt Development Group is proud to be a Gold Sponsor for the 2008 Maryland Club Open Squash tournament. This represents the sixth year of what is fast becoming an established tradition at the MD Club, and within the wider squash community. Already I would say that the event has a certain "buzz" around the tournament circuit as one of the best attended and most enjoyed tournaments on the tour. That is in no small part due to the generosity and inviting spirit that the members of this club extend to the professionals who come down here to participate in the weekend. They feel, as I do, that we have one of the most vibrant and exciting squash programs in the country.

Finally I would like to express a word of thanks to Martin and Owen Knott, whose company Knott Mechanical was generous enough to have been the Platinum Sponsor the two years of the event and have been critical in helping to establish the tournament as a success. Also, I would like to express gratitude to our own Squash Professional Andrew Cordova and committee chairman Doug Hoffberger. Both have been instrumental over the past six years in bringing this wonderful event into existence.

Sincerely,

Dwight Sage Platt, Jr.



October 4, 2008

Dear Sponsors, Patrons, Professionals and Guests:

Knott Mechanical is honored once again to sponsor the Maryland Club Open. It is truly a privilege to support the tournament, the club and the game of Squash.

As we embark upon our six year as a sponsor of this tournament we are excited to join together with the professionals, members and guests that have contributed to the Maryland Club Open's success in the past and we welcome those who will participate for the first time this year.

We thank the Tournament Committee, the Maryland Club Staff, Professionals from the ISDA, the Sponsors, and all the members of the Maryland Club who contributed their time and efforts to make this year's tournament a success.

Lastly, we would like to recognize Andrew Cordova whose contributions continue to make this tournament one of the best stops on the ISDA tour.

Sincerely,

Martin G. Knott, Jr.

President

Knott Mechanical, Inc.

Owen M. Knott

Vice President

Knott Mechanical, Inc.



October 1, 2008

Maryland Club Open 1 E. Eager Street Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Sponsors, Patrons, Professionals & Guests,

On behalf of The Ritz-Carlton Residences, Inner Harbor, Baltimore, I would like to congratulate the participants and sponsors of the 6th annual Maryland Club Open Doubles Tournament. We are thrilled to be a part of this exciting weekend of squash featuring the world's best doubles players.

As one of Baltimore's newest neighbors, The Ritz-Carlton Residences, Inner Harbor, Baltimore believes in supporting organizations and causes that give back to our community. Both the 2008 Maryland Club Open and The Ritz-Carlton Residences, Inner Harbor, Baltimore represents the best in their respective fields...the world's most outstanding squash players and the area's most luxurious residential community.

Special congratulations to the Maryland Club, Andrew and his staff for once again organizing an incredible event.

Enjoy the tournament and may the best doubles players win.

Best regards

John C. Porter Jr.

A MIDTOWN GROUP DEVELOPMENT



#### ■ PROMOTING YOUR COMPANY IS OUR BUSINESS ■

#### October, 2008

#### Gentlemen,

Midlantic Ltd. would like to congratulate all of the participants, the Maryland Club and Andrew Cordova on the occasion of the  $6^{th}$  Anniversary of the Maryland Club Open Pro-Am Squash Tournament. This year promises to be a pinnacle event and we are proud to be a part of the excitement.

While it is hard to believe that six years have gone by since the inaugural tournament, the growth of this event and the caliber of the players and other participants continue, each year, to exceed the expectations of the spectators and sponsors alike. We are thrilled to have an opportunity to again be a part of the Maryland Club Pro-Am Squash Tournament and we wish everyone the best of luck and the greatest success possible in the 2008 games!

Best personal regards,

Josh Taylor Midlantic Ltd.



Price Modern LLC

2604 Sisson Street | Baltimore, MD 21211 410-366-5500 | 410-235-8382 fax

Dear Sponsors, Patrons, Professionals and Guests:

E. Brent Matthews

Price Modern, LLC is proud to be a Silver sponsor of the 2008 Maryland Club Open! This is our second year and we are excited to be a part of this world class tournament which includes the finest professionals in the world along with the amateurs from the Maryland Club.

I would like to congratulate the Maryland Club staff, members and sponsors for what promises to be the largest and best event ever! I also applaud the efforts of Andrew Cordova and Doug Hoffberger for their enthusiasm in making this an annual highlight for the Maryland Club.

Sincerely,

**Brent Matthews** 

Vice President of Sales



October 2008

To All the Sponsors, Patrons, Professionals, and Guests:

Inverness Counsel is pleased to be a Gold Sponsor of the 6<sup>th</sup> Maryland Club Open. The Maryland Club Open continues to be one of the most popular events on the ISDA Tour and this is due to the inspired efforts of the Head Squash Professional Andrew Cordova, the Club Manager Katherine Mandaro, and the entire staff of the Maryland Club. The support from the entire Club and the preparatory work of the Tournament Committee has always ensured that everyone is guaranteed a memorable weekend.

It is widely recognized that Squash Doubles players (both the club players and the pros) are a unique group of athletes and their game involves a challenging and entertaining mix of speed, talent, and strategy. Baltimore and the Maryland Club have a long history and significant association with championship squash and this event is a worthy continuation of that tradition.

This year promises to be an interesting year with regard to the competitive balance in the ISDA due to the retirement of Gary Waite and the emergence of several new teams. The Maryland Club Open will be closely watched for indications of dominance and the final results will be important factors in determining early season rankings and bragging rights.

Inverness Counsel is honored to be associated with this event and this tour and we wish everyone the best of luck.

Rob Deans

**Executive Vice President** 

KapTeans



#### BROWN ADVISORY

Thomas Schweizer, Jr. *President* 

October 2008

Brown Advisory is proud to be a sponsor of the 2008 Maryland Club Open. Once Again, the Club, its staff and Andrew Cordova in particular, have done a fantastic job organizing an exciting weekend of squash.

Best of luck to all of the players!

Jim Schweizen

Sincerely,



October 2008

Dear Sponsors, Patrons, and Guests:

The Whit Harvey Group is proud and honored to be a Gold Sponsor of the 2008 Maryland Club Open Squash Tournament. I was sponsor in the 2004, 2005 and 2007 events, and was invited to attend several of the matches. I am truly in awe of the talent displayed by the amateurs and needless to say, the professionals. This great event has taken on a life of its own. The camaraderie and sense of humor of those involved is contagious and inspiring.

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to our Squash professional, Andrew Cordova and our committee chairman, Doug Hoffberger. Their hard work and commitment have been a driving force in making this wonderful event a reality here at the Maryland Club.

Sincerely,

Whit Harvey

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Greenspring Office 10807 Falls Road, Suite 300 Lutherville, Maryland 21093 Direct: 410.832.2583 Fax: 410.821.0379 http://www.whitharveygroup.com









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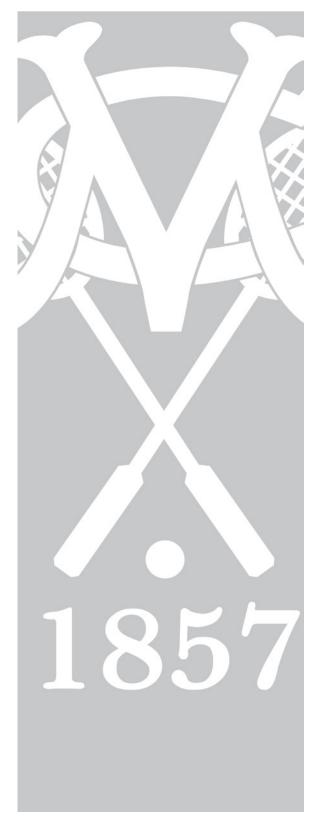
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Ned Walton

Jay West

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#### 2008 MARYLAND CLUB OPEN PROFILES

#### By Rob Dinerman

Damien Mudge/Viktor Berg: Repelled virtually throughout the autumn portion of the 2007-08 schedule in their quest for ISDA titles, and plagued during that period by a preseason hamstring injury to Berg, an 0-3 slate against Chris Walker and Clive Leach and the six-point collapse that undid the 11-9 Big Apple final-round lead they had held over Paul Price and Ben Gould, this pair of first-year partners conjured up the most successful midseason turnaround in the history of the ISDA beginning immediately after Thanksgiving, when they reached the finals of all 10 subsequent ISDA ranking tournament, winning eight of them, thereby solidly earning the No. 1 end-of-season team ranking. Their match record from late November onwards of 33-2 included a 19-0 run encompassing five consecutive January/February/March tournaments (namely Boston, the North American Open in Greenwich, Cleveland, Brooklyn and Denver) that enabled Mudge, playing for the first time on the left wall after all those right-wall years of record-shattering success with the now-retired Gary Waite, and Berg, who looked so shaky in their debut Maryland Club Open outing a year ago (when they were soundly defeated by Walker/Leach in the semis), to rocket to the No. 1 standing that they would clinch in late April with their thrilling Kellner Cup fifth-set-tiebreaker final-round rallying win over Price and Gould.

Those eleventh-hour heroics at the Kellner Cup (where they trailed 2-1 and 12-9 in the fourth, saved a double-match-point, and overcame a 13-12 deficit in the fifth with a match-ending 4-0 spurt) represented just one of several times when Mudge and Berg came through at crunch-time, just as Price and Gould had been able to do in their No. 1 2006-07 campaign. Without Mudge's audacious but clear-winner backhand-reverse corner (the same shot he had hit to save the first of the two consecutive match-balls-against that he and Berg faced in the Kellner Cup's fourth-game tiebreaker, preceding a Price tin) at 17-all in the third game of a Creek Challenge Cup semi vs Preston Quick and John Russell, it is unlikely that his team would have survived that two-hour 15-12 fifth-game marathon, and Mudge/Berg trailed Matt Jenson and Leach 2-1, 11-8 in the season-ending early-May Sea Island final before they rescued that game 18-16 and sailed off with an anticlimactic 15-8 fifth.

Though Berg and Mudge, as noted, were badly out-played by Leach and Walker in this arena last year in Berg's first appearance after having to miss the season-opening St. Louis event while recuperating from his late-September hamstring pull, they have both experienced much success in their past Baltimore forays: four of the staggering 76 Waite/Mudge ISDA crowns (no other team has won more than 10) were the 2003-05 Maryland Club Opens and the 2002 BIDS, while Berg, a finalist in the '02 BIDS with Willie Hosey and the '04 Maryland Club Open with Josh McDonald, teamed with Waite to capture the '01 BIDS event while Mudge was recovering from a wrist injury incurred in a rollerblading accident on the occasionally fissure-prone sidewalks of Manhattan, where Mudge has been based for the past decade at the University Club, whose head pro position he has held for the past seven years.

Paul Price/Ben Gould: Champions this past season in the Big Apple Open (successfully defending this title with a 6-0 run from 9-11 in the fifth game of the final with Damien Mudge and Viktor Berg), Chicago, Toronto Vancouver and Long Island, this pair of contemporaneous (born only six months apart in 1976) Australian stars were also runners-up last year in Baltimore (where they led Clive Leach and Chris Walker 2-1 before ceding the subsequent two games), Greenwich (where a Price's mid-match ankle injury doomed their attempt to defend their '07 North American Open crown), Brooklyn (where for the second straight year they managed a late-fifth-game semifinal rally to edge John Russell and Preston Quick) and, shatteringly, the Kellner Cup, where they led 13-12 against their season-long rivals Mudge and Berg in both the fourth and fifth games only to lose both games in tiebreakers, an outcome that was especially significant both given the late-April match's ramifications (the No. 1 end-of-season team ranking was known to have been at stake even before the tournament began) and in view of the home-crowd advantage that Gould enjoyed as the head pro of the event's Racquet & Tennis Club locale.

All told, Price and Gould, whose 10 ISDA titles during their two-season partnership is the second-largest in ISDA history, behind only Mudge and Gary Waite's 76, went 3-3 against the Mudge/Berg duo last season, with all six of those clashes occurring in finals, and the Big Apple Open, Vancouver and Long Island events going to Price/Gould

#### 2008 MARYLAND CLUB OPEN PROFILES



and balancing the Mudge/Berg triumphs in Brooklyn and at the two most important tourneys of the season, namely the North American Open and Kellner Cup. Price and Gould wound up with a 6-3 record against Walker/Leach, a 3-2 slate against Russell/Quick and an undefeated mark against everyone else. Price battled a variety of ailments all season, notably the ankle sprain, as noted, in Greenwich, a stomach virus that caused him to have to default midway through a Boston semi against Walker and Leach and a lower-leg injury when he and Mudge collided while jostling along the left wall in the Kellner Cup final that hampered him during the remainder of that match and forced him to withdraw from the Sea Island finale later that same week. Gould's vaunted durability was on display all season, as was his lethal forehand right-wall power, which served him so well in the pair of noteworthy seasons he spent as Quick's partner (including their advance to the '05 Maryland Club Open final via wins over first Chris Deratnay/Alex Pavulans and then Walker/Berg) prior to joining forces with his compatriot Price in the spring of 2006.

In just their second tournament together, the '06 Maryland Club Open, they ousted three-time defending champs Mudge and Waite in a four-game semi that swung on an audacious look-away Price forehand roll-corner at 17-all in the second that deprived their opponents of a two-games-to-love lead and preceded a Price/Gould domination of the remaining pair of single-figure games in that match as well as a next-day 3-0 triumph over Quick and Russell in the final. That result presaged the No. 1 2006-07 season that would follow, highlighted by a 4-1 record over Waite and Mudge (who never before had lost to any team more than twice in a season) and appearances in the winner's circle in the North American Open and the Briggs Cup, in both cases due to rallying final-round wins over Waite and Mudge. After being dislodged from the No. 1 position by Mudge and Berg last season, Price and Gould now face the challenge of regaining that status in 2008-09.

Matt Jenson/Clive Leach: Both the British-born Leach, who is entering this sixth Maryland Club Open event with his sixth different partner, and his new Australian teammate Jenson enjoyed their respective career-best years in 2007-08, but the paucity of their body of work as partners, which consists of only one event (the season-ending Sea Island tourney last May), gives a real wild-card quality to their decision to join up the 2008-09 campaign. Leach and Chris Walker began last season in torrid fashion, winning both October tournaments, the St. Louis season-opener followed by the Maryland Club Open, featuring in each case a rallying win over Paul Price and Ben Gould, who saw a 2-0, 14-9 lead evaporate in a St. Louis semi and were then unable to convert a two games to one final-round advantage in Baltimore one week later. Leach and Walker then proceeded to reach the finals in Chicago, Toronto and Boston during the next few months (compiling at one point a 3-0 mark against Damien Mudge and Viktor Berg, who however wound up winning all five of their remaining match-ups last season) and to briefly occupy the No. 1 team standing before a second half in which they never surpassed the semis caused them to eventually land at No. 3, behind a pair of teams (Mudge/Berg and Price/Gould) both of whom Walker and Leach had out-played in that sequence in capturing last year's Maryland Club Open title.

Leach's ISDA career highlights also include his three winter/spring 2003 title runs with Blair Horler in the Kellner Cup, Creek Challenge Cup and Canadian Pro events (they also were five-time runners-up to Mudge and Gary Waite during the early-2000's, including the '04 North American Open), his '04 Big Apple Open win with Willie Hosey (with whom Leach also reached the finals of the '04 Long Island and San Francisco events and the '05 North American Open), his pair of '05 finals (in Chicago and San Francisco) with Michael Pirnak, his '07 U. S. Nationals final with Scott Butcher, his consecutive-years' (2005 and 2006) advances to the Cambridge Club Doubles final with Preston Quick and Butcher respectively and, as referenced, his advance with Jenson five months ago to the finals in Sea Island, where they rose superior first to Joe Pentland and Mark Price and then to second seeds Quick and John Russell. Leach and Jenson then earned their way to a 2-1, 11-8 lead over Mudge and Berg before dropping that game in a tiebreaker (18-16) and falling in a 15-8 fifth game most of which occurred with Jenson immobilized by cramps in both thighs.

The latter had attained only one career ISDA semifinal prior to the second half of the 2007-08 season, which makes



#### 2008 MARYLAND CLUB OPEN PROFILES

his advances all the way to two ISDA finals (his exploits with Leach in Sea Island, were preceded by his wins with Quick in Cleveland over the Pirnak/Mark Chaloner and Walker/Leach tandems) all the more noteworthy. Jenson, whose older brother Dan was a teenage-years rival of his Australian compatriot Mudge and later the No. 5 PSA pro before injuries in recent years have ended his singles career, had reached the quarters of 10 of the 11 other ISDA events he entered (seven with Jeff Mulligan and three with Hosey) while also earning his first career top-10 ISDA ranking last season, which began on a propitious note with the Jenson brothers winning the inaugural edition of the U. S. National Siblings tourney, held in Sea Island shortly after Labor Day.

John Russell/Preston Quick: Last season, their second as partners, was what Quick has characterized as the "most consistent" of his ISDA career (which has included prior successful prior alliances with the likes of Jamie Bentley and Ben Gould), fittingly so in light of their advances to at least the semifinal stage of all but one of the 13 ISDA ranking tournaments they entered. That lone blot on their slate, a quarters loss in the Big Apple Open to Scott Butcher and Willi e Hosey (on the same weekend during which Russell also completed the New York City Marathon!), was more than counter-balanced by final-round appearances in both Wilmington and at the Denver Athletic Club, where Quick learned the game as a youngster from John Lesko and the immortal Hashim Khan. Each of those advances to the final was keyed by semifinal victories (in a fifth-set overtime in the case of Wilmington) over Gould and Paul Price, whom Russell and Quick also led 11-7 in the fifth game of a Heights Casino semifinal before bowing to an 8-1 run.

The foregoing were by no means the only airtight matches that Russell and Quick (whose partnership highlight occurred when they won the '07 U. S. National Doubles with a 3-0 final over Butcher and Clive Leach), the '06 Maryland Club Open finalists by dint of their 3-0 semi vs. Chris Walker and Viktor Berg, weathered last year. In their season opener in St. Louis, they let a 14-9 fourth-game lead (five match-balls) get away against Joe Pentland and Mark Price, who then took an 11-7 fifth-game lead before a torrid 8-0 Russell/Quick charge rescued that game. Pentland and Price came even closer a few months later in Boston, where they stood at 2-1, 14-10, only to see Russell and Quick garner all five subsequent match-points against them and go on to prevail in a close fifth game. They were in trouble on other occasions last season as well --- their great Wilmington performance could have ended before it began when they found themselves stuck in a fifth game with Michael Ferreira and Whitten Morris, but Russell and Quick went on to defeat that pairing both in Delaware and last spring at the Kellner Cup, where a Ferreira/Morris multiple-match-ball saving charge from 8-14 to 13-14 foundered on the perfect-length rail that Quick nailed down the right wall that barely eluded Morris's diving attempt to get his racquet on the ball.

Notwithstanding these close calls in both directions that characterized their 2007-08 campaign, Russell and Quick can be validly described as standing equidistant between the Damien Mudge/Berg, Paul Price/Gould and Walker/ Leach top three and the rest of the ISDA field, as is starkly confirmed statistically by contrasting their 1-10 mark against the Big Three with their 15-1 record against everyone else (they also dropped a Sea Island semi to Leach and Matt Jenson, which is not included in that count). Quick also teamed with Jenson in Cleveland (during which Russell was visiting his native England to help his father celebrate his 60th birthday), a first-time collaboration which brought them all the way to the finals, keyed by a win over Walker and Leach in the semis, before they fell to Mudge and Berg. In addition to that '07 U. S. Nationals crown, Quick won three titles with Gould during the 2005-06 season, namely the Big Apple Open, the U. S. Pro and the Boston tourney.

Rob Dinerman, currently in his eighth year as the writer/archivist for the ISDA tour (a position he held for many years with the WPSA pro hardball tour during the 1980's and 1990's), also maintains a weekly blog on the idasquash.com wesite. He was ranked as high as No. 10 on the WPSA tour and has won 51 Open tournaments, including a record six New York State Titles. He has written more than 800 articles during the past six years for the squash web site www.squashtalk.com and has a separate archive on the home page of that site.



On behalf of the ISDA professional tour and its players, I would like to thank you for hosting the 2008 Maryland Club Open. The weekend promises to be filled with great matches in both the pro and pro am events. The players continually praise the organization of the event and the hospitality they receive from club members.

This is an exciting time for doubles squash. With the continued sponsorship from Inverness Counsel, Inc. and Harrow Sports, the ISDA professional tour continues to grow and further cement its footings in North American sport. The ISDA is now the largest squash tour in North America due to support from clubs like yours.

I would like to express our gratitude to all of you and the wonderful Maryland Club for inviting us back for the 2008 Maryland Club Open. It is a privilege for us to both visit your club and to be able to play the game we love in front of such avid supporters and fans. We would like to thank Andrew Cordova for all of his efforts in bringing top level squash to Baltimore and the Maryland Club, as well as his never-ending enthusiasm in organizing and running this great tournament. Furthermore, we would like to express our gratitude to Doug Hoffberger for the time and effort he invests in running an event of this magnitude. Finally, we would like to thank all of the sponsors including the Maryland Club, Whit Harvey Group, Inverness Counsel Inc., Ritz Carlton, Platt Development Group, Knott Mechanical, Price Modern, Brown Advisory, and Midlantic Ltd. for their support and contributions to the game of squash.

We very much hope that you will enjoy the world class level of play we are proud to present to you. Enjoy the weekend.

Sincerely,

James Hewitt Executive Director

ISDA 197 Glencairn Ave. Toronto ON M4R 1N3 tel: 647-342-8303 fax: 647-342-830 email: doubles@isdasquash.com website: www.isdasquash.com



## 2007 MARYLAND CLUB OPEN ISDA QUALIFIER DRAW



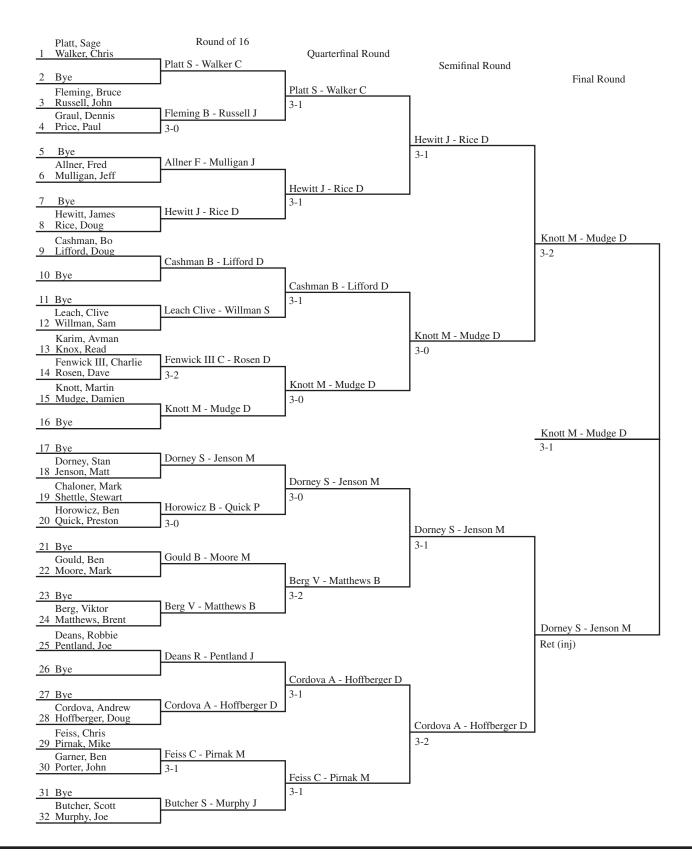
## 2007 MARYLAND CLUB OPEN ISDA MAIN DRAW





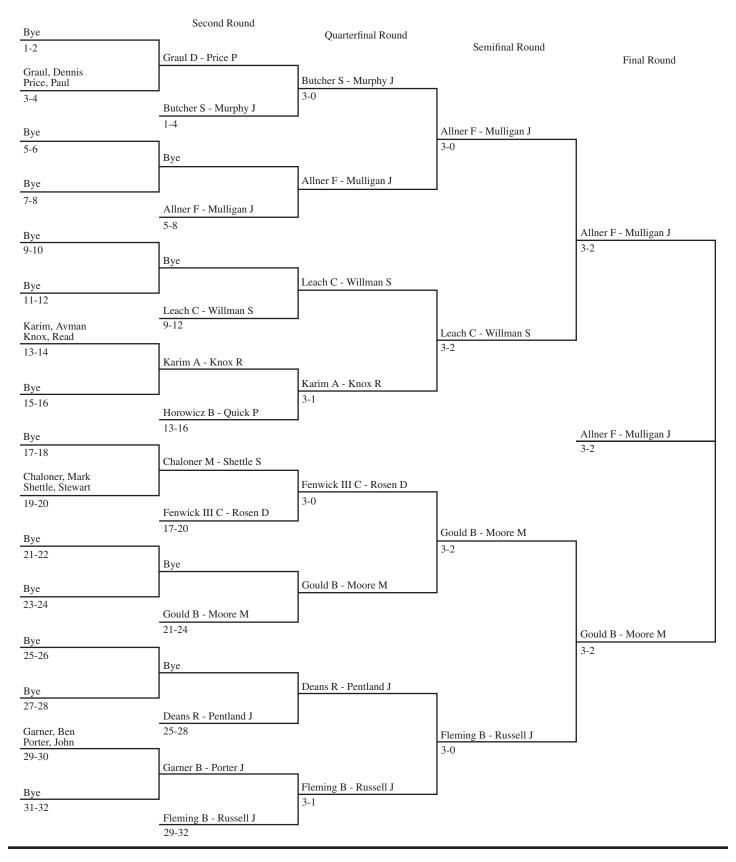


## 2007 MARYLAND CLUB OPEN PRO-AM MAIN DRAW



## 2007 MARYLAND CLUB OPEN PRO-AM MAIN DRAW CONSOLATION





## Please join your fellow Patrons, Sponsors, and Squash Professionals

For a

## Cocktail Buffet

Saturday, October 18th 7:00 pm

at



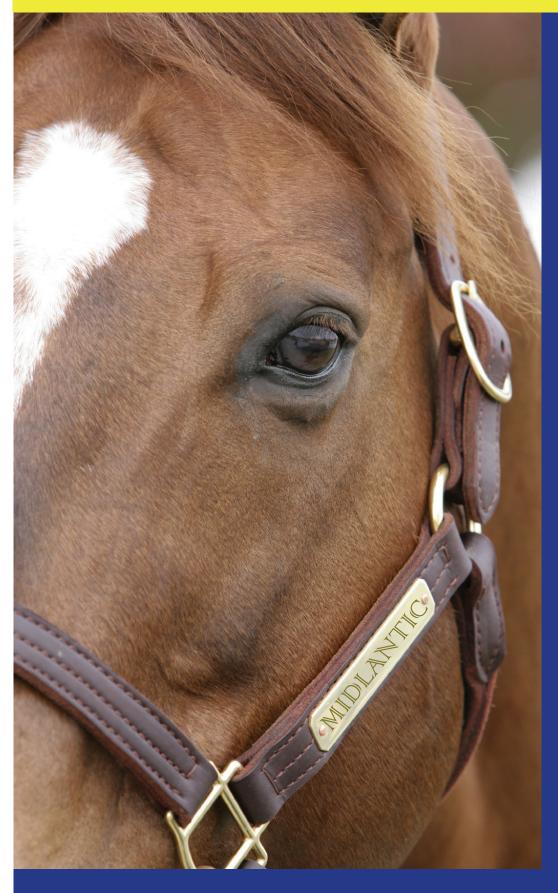


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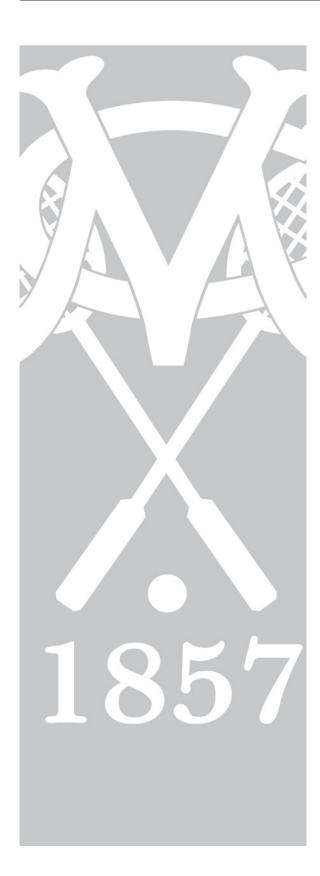
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#### WEDNESDAY

Qualifying Matches 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

#### Thursday

Qualifying Matches 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Cocktail Party 6:30 p.m. Calcutta Dinner 7:30 p.m. Calcutta 8:30 p.m.

#### Friday

Pro-Am Matches begin 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Lunch available in the Squash Dining Room 12 – 2:30 p.m. Pro Draw Round of 16 matches 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. Dinner available in the Squash Dining Room 6 – 8:30 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY**

Pro-Am consolation Matches begin 8 – 10:00 a.m.

Pro-Am main draw semi-final matches 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Lunch buffet served courtside 12 – 2:30 p.m.

Pro Draw quarterfinal matches 12 – 2:00 p.m.

Pro-Am consolation semi-final matches 2 – 4:00 p.m.

Pro Draw semi-final matches 4 – 6:00 p.m.

Dinner at Minato Japanese Restaurant 7 – 11:00 p.m.

(For Sponsors and Patrons only)

#### SUNDAY

Pro-Am consolation final matches 9 - 11:00 a.m. Pro-Am main draw final matches 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Lunch buffet served courtside 12 - 2:00 p.m.

#### <u>Monday</u>

Pro Draw final 5:30 p.m. (complimentary hors d'oeuvres served courtside)



National Urban Squash and Education Association

October, 2008

#### Maryland Club Members:

We are pleased to alert you to the formation of an important new non-profit squash organization in Baltimore. Baltimore SquashWise (SquashWise) has brought together diverse individual and institutional partners in developing an after-school enrichment program for underserved youth in Baltimore City. The program's mission combines squash, academics, and community service to empower public middle school students to realize their full academic, athletic and personal potential.

SquashWise is proud of it recent selection as the first-ever "Star Program" of the National Urban Squash and Education Association (NUSEA), and is modeled on the principles of founding chapters located in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Boston. A Star Program designation entails a \$50,000 challenge grant and the participation of NUSEA's Executive Director, Greg Zaff, on the SquashWise Board of Directors.

SquashWise will deliver an intensive 3 day-a-week after-school program, with an equal mix of tutoring and squash. The weekend portion of this schedule will be dedicated to match play, community service, and group field trips. This format ensures the continuity, discipline, and camaraderie that will benefit each child for a lifetime.

The success of the SquashWise program is contingent upon the vision and involvement of early-stage partners. Initial partnerships have been established with:

- Meadow Mill Athletic Club furthering its commitment to youth squash in Baltimore, Meadow Mill will donate squash courts and tutoring space throughout the school year
- Harrow Sports will supply an in-kind donation of squash racquets and equipment in keeping with its sponsorship of urban squash nationally

Special note should also be made of SquashWise's key alliance with the Maryland State Squash Racquets Association (MSSRA). MSSRA participated generously in SquashWise's preliminary fundraising campaign, and provided critical administrative support during our planning year. SquashWise will work closely with MSSRA on an ongoing basis to support the broader mission of promoting the game of squash regionally.

The Maryland Club is represented on the SquashWise Board of Directors by Owen Knott, Charlie Wise, Jack Laporte, Dan Dent and Doug Hoffberger. Please speak with any of these members to learn more about the program and how you might become involved. We are tremendously excited to bring urban squash to Baltimore, and look forward to updating each of you on SquashWise's progress leading to the formal launch in November!

Sincerely,

Charles Wise President & Chairman Abby Markoe Executive Director











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#### Questions?

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### Enriching the lives of Baltimore's youth through athletics, academics and service.

#### Urban Squash Success Stories and Facts

- Urban squash programs have seen a 100% high school graduation rate.
- 40 students have been placed into prep schools with over \$4 million in scholarships awarded to urban squash scholar-athletes for high school and college education.
- Existing programs boast a 93% college matriculation rate. Urban squash graduates are studying at schools such as the University of Pennsylvania, Brown, Bates, Boston University, Northeastern, Simmons and Wesleyan.
- Thousands of hours have been dedicated to community service at retirement homes, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, playgrounds, HIV Resource Centers, and more.
- Established programs are now seeing former students return full-circle to the program to coach, tutor and volunteer.

#### National Urban Squash and Education Association (NUSEA)

This national umbrella organization provides financial support, guidance and a proven model of success while allowing for the complete autonomy of each program. Baltimore SquashWise is proud to be selected as NUSEA's first-ever "Star Program" which includes a major challenge grant over three years and the participation of NUSEA's Executive Director, Greg Zaff, on the SquashWise Board of Directors.

#### Why Baltimore?

Baltimore is a major U.S. city with an outstanding squash culture, an engaged population of charitable individuals and organizations, and a need for expanded academic and athletic opportunities within its school system. The Maryland State Squash Racquets Association (MSSRA) has dedicated 100 years to the development of the sport. MSSRA is a key partner for Baltimore SquashWise and supports the principles of urban squash enrichment programs.

#### Facility & Equipment

Meadow Mill Athletic Club, the country's largest commercial squash court facility, has partnered with Baltimore SquashWise to donate court space for squash practices. Meadow Mill has taken a leadership role in enriching the lives of Baltimore-area youth through the medium of squash. Additionally, Harrowsports has generously committed to providing equipment to SquashWise students in keeping with its support of urban squash and education programs nationally.

#### School Partner

Baltimore SquashWise has worked with the Office of Partnerships at the Baltimore City Public School System to select Booker T. Washington Middle School as its school partner. The Principal, Dr. William Bailey, is extremely enthusiastic about providing quality after-school programs for his students, and is working closely with our program to ensure its success.

#### Funding

Baltimore SquashWise is a 501(c)(3) organization relying on volunteers as well as charitable donations from individuals, institutions and foundations for its financial and operational stability. We would be grateful for your tax-deductible donation. Please make checks payable to "Baltimore SquashWise" and send to Abby Markoe, P.O. Box 1564, Baltimore, MD 21203.



#### A HISTORICAL RETROSPECTIVE

#### By Rob Dinerman

When Blair Horler and Clive Leach, the hottest team on the ISDA circuit the prior winter/spring with their Canadian Pro and Kellner Cup final-round wins over the previously invincible Gary Waite and Damien Mudge, were unceremoniously ousted, in straight games no less, in the first round of the inaugural 2003 Maryland Club Open by qualifiers Alex Pavulans and Chris Deratnay, they never fully recovered from this unexpected setback and their partnership ended just a few months later when Horler badly injured his right knee that winter. Similarly, when Willie Hosey and Michael Pirnak defeated Pavulans and Deratnay the following day to reach that '03 final (losing to Waite and Mudge, who would go on to win the next two editions of this tourney as well), they took the first big step in a season that would see them reach four subsequent finals as well.

When Ben Gould and Preston Quick, first-round Maryland Club Open losers one year earlier, roared into the final round of the '05 edition of that event, out-playing Chris Walker and Viktor Berg in the semis, they set the stage for their breakthrough first-ever tournament win (via a 15-14 fourth over Waite/Mudge against whom Quick and Gould had been zero for 11 coming into that match), the Big Apple Open, just a few weeks later, jump-starting an 11-week stretch in which Quick and Gould would also capture the Wilmington and Boston titles and come within one point (18-17 in the fifth) of taking a rematch with Waite and Mudge in the Toronto final.

Similarly, when Gould and his new partner Paul Price shocked three-time defending Maryland Club Open champs Waite and Mudge one year later in a four-game semi (keyed by a look-away Price forehand roll-corner in a 17-16 second game that prevented The Champs from taking a two-games-to-love lead), that outcome, followed as it was by a 3-0 final over Quick and John Russell, foretold the ascendancy of the Price/Gould pairing to the North American Open and Briggs Cup titles and No. 1 season-end team ranking that would ensue, while marking the first sign that the seven-year Waite/Mudge dynasty was finally coming to an end, largely due to their inability to win tiebreakers in their matches with Price and Gould, who augmented that Baltimore second game with successful overtime sessions vs. Waite and Mudge in the third and fourth games of the North American Open final and the second game of the Briggs Cup final.

But in distinct contrast to the foregoing, when Mudge and his new partner Berg in their debut appearance were convincingly defeated by eventual champs Leach and HIS new partner Walker in the semifinal round of last year's '07 Maryland Club Open, that result would be swept into irrelevancy by the remarkable season that awaited Mudge, who last autumn was switching both partners (from the retired Waite to Berg) AND walls (to the left, after all those record-shattering years on the right), and Berg. Once this pair started to mesh right around Thanksgiving, they took off on an unstoppable tear that brought them eight ISDA ranking titles, five of them in a winter-long row, and to the final round of the last 10 events on the 2007-08 schedule. Included in this extended run, which featured a 19-match winning streak, by far the largest of any team not only all season but ever since a Waite/ Mudge 62-match skein was snapped nearly three years ago, were rallying wins in both the North American Open and Kellner Cup finals over Price and Gould, the first of which enabled Mudge and Berg to take over the No. 1 ranking and the second of which, coming in the face of a 1-2, 9-12 fourth-game hole and requiring tiebreaker conclusions to both the fourth and fifth games, enabled them to clinch it.

Starting with that Pavulans/Deratnay upset win over Horler/Leach --- which occurred on a wild Halloween evening that was preceded that morning by a pair of unexpected final-round qualifying results (in which both seeded teams fell, Doug Lifford/James Hewitt to Pavulans/Deratnay and Gould/Eric Vlcek to Walker/Dave Kay) and followed by Quick and Jamie Bentley beating No. 4 seeds Berg and Josh McDonald 15-4 in the fifth and by Walker and Kay almost beating second seeds and eventual finalists Hosey and Pirnak before an exhausted Kay muscled a forehand rail at 13-14 that would have cleanly passed on out-of-position Hosey had it not first ticked the top of the tin --- the Maryland Club Open, now entering its sixth year, has frequently been the scene of early-season drama that has almost always had a significant impact on the remainder of the October to May schedule. The tour has undergone enormous personnel changes during the five years that have passed since this tournament first burst upon the ISDA scene --- only eight of the 16 main-draw players back then are still active on the present

#### A HISTORICAL RETROSPECTIVE



tour, and both Gould and Matt Jenson, currently ranked in the top 10, lost in the qualifying rounds of that '03 event --- but the influence of this tourney on the ISDA stops that follow appears likely to continue to be strong, both due to the psychological impact of early-season results and as a consequence of the many new alignments that frequently form over the intervening months between the end of one tour and the beginning of the next.

That latter phenomenon likely hit its peak during the summer of 2007, when Waite's just-announced retirement set off a "domino effect" among the top-tier players (it left Mudge needing a new partner, which became Berg, leaving Berg's partner Walker needing a new partner, which became Leach, and so on) by the end of which the Price/Gould and Russell/Quick pairs, both of whom had played only one event together prior to the start of the 2006-07 season, were nevertheless the longest-tenured tandems of any team on the circuit! This past summer, by contrast, has been expected to be far "quieter," lacking the impetus of any player move approaching the magnitude of Waite's retirement and in the wake of the overwhelming 60-1 slate that the top-four ranked teams (i.e. Mudge/Berg, Price/Gould, Walker/Leach and Russell/Quick), semifinalists virtually every ISDA tournament weekend last year (including the Maryland Club Open), compiled in 2007-08 against the rest of the ISDA field. The lone exception to that essentially upset-free slate occurred in a Big Apple Open quarterfinal, when Russell and Quick, who frequently lived dangerously in pre-semi competition (especially in their pair of route-going quarters against Joe Pentland and Mark Price, who actually led 2-1, 14-10 in Boston before that quintuple-match-point opportunity slipped away), fell to Scott Butcher (in his ISDA swan song before relocating to his native Australia shortly thereafter) and Hosey in four well-played games.

Three of the four tandems comprising last year's aristocracy are indeed intact from this past spring, but Leach, instead of defending the crown that he and Walker annexed last October with their rally from 1-2 down against Price and Gould, will be entering this season partnering Jenson after their advance to (and nearly through) the season-ending Sea Island tournament in Georgia last May, when they had led Mudge and Berg by a score of 2-1, 11-8 before finally losing that game 18-16 and dropping an anticlimactic 15-8 fifth-game tally. Jenson will be Leach's sixth different Maryland Club Open partner (preceded by Horler in '03, Hosey in '04, Pirnak in '05, Butcher in '06 and Walker in '07) in six editions of the tournament (never before in ISDA history as a player had a different partner in a given ISDA tour stop that many consecutive years), and this will also be the first time that a winning team in this tournament has not returned to Eager Street the following year to defend their title. This move represents a major step up for Jenson, who had attained only one career semifinal (Denver '07, when he and Jeff Mulligan led Price/Gould two games to one and led early in the fourth before Price defaulted due to injury) prior to his two final-round finishes (with Quick in Cleveland and Leach, as noted, in Sea Island, in Jenson's only forays with either of those two top-six-ranked respective players) in the second half of the 2007-08 campaign.

Whether Berg (whose only career Maryland title came with Waite in the '01 BIDS, whose final round was played at the Maryland Club) and Mudge can match the torrid post-Thanksgiving standard they set last season, figures to be a major storyline for both the '08 Maryland Club Open and the tour calendar (the most event-filled and lucrative in ISDA history) that will follow --- so will the ability of Price and Gould to recapture the form that carried them through a No. 1 2006-07 season and to a four-titles-in-five-events stretch in November/December last season; of Russell and Quick to again demonstrate the extraordinarily consistent level they maintained all last season; of Leach to successfully retain the Maryland Club Open trophy with his new partner; and of the many talented ISDA performers ranked just out of the top nine to form productive partnerships (Pentland and Mark Price, as one example, semifinalists in Vancouver, were on the cusp of the semis several other times last winter) that go deep into ISDA draws. A furious battle to establish a top-tier pecking order occurs in the early stages of every ISDA tour, and the Maryland Club Open, now fully established as one of the most prominent stops on the schedule and skillfully positioned in its mid-October time slot, has always provided a key forum for the resolution of those season-defining autumn confrontations.



## 2008 Maryland Club Open ISDA QUALIFIER DRAW



## 2008 MARYLAND CLUB OPEN ISDA MAIN DRAW





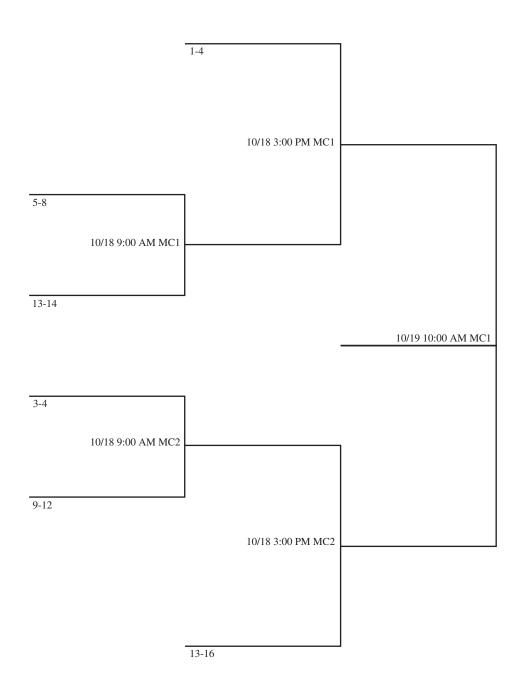


## 2008 MARYLAND CLUB OPEN PRO-AM BLACK FLIGHT



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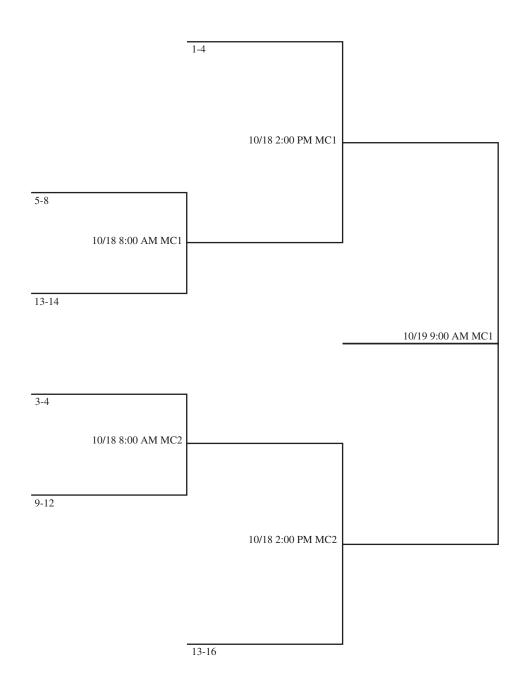


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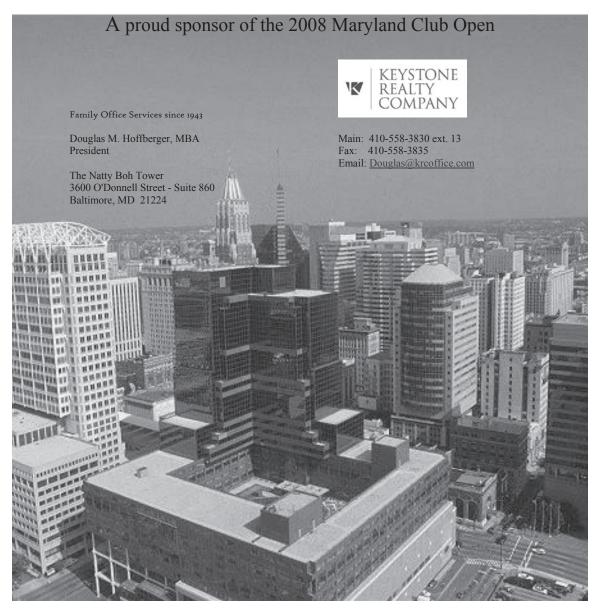
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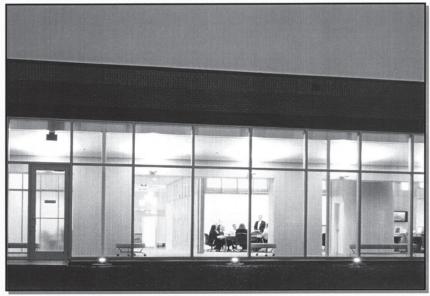


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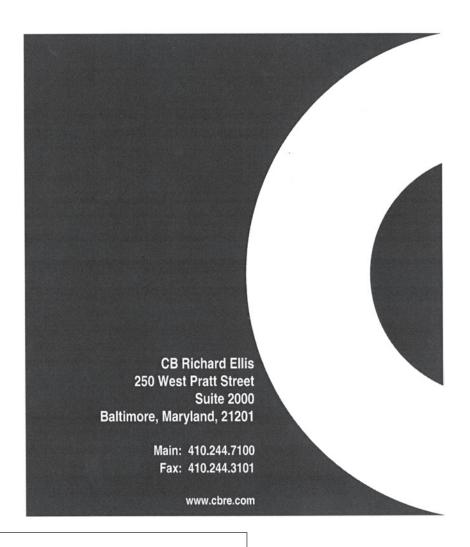




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If it wasn't for you Tommy, I might never have learned to play this great game twenty seven years ago.

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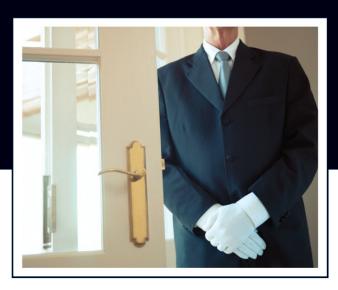
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